

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to the present amendment, Claims 3-5, 7-12, 16-19 and 22-34 were pending in the present application. After the foregoing amendment, Claims 3-5, 7-12, 16-19 and 22-31 are active in the present application. Claims 32-34 have been canceled.

The Examiner indicated at paragraph 6 in the Office Action dated October 21, 2003, that Claims 3-5, 7-12, 16-19, and 22-31 are allowed. Accordingly, with the cancellation of Claims 32-34, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are now allowed.

Applicants also note that the Office Action Summary does not contain an acknowledgment of the claim for Foreign Priority. Applicants, when filing the present application, made a claim for Foreign Priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of Japanese Patent Applications Serial No. 10-182393 filed June 29, 1998; Serial No. 10-182396 filed June 29, 1998; and Serial No. 11-089247 filed March 30, 1999. Applicants also submitted certified copies of the priority documents. The Foreign Priority claim was acknowledged in the Filing Receipt. Applicants request that the priority claim be acknowledged in the next communication.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Jan. 21, 2004

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